

NOV 25 2002

Planning, Programs and Project  
Management Division

Mr. Russell J. Harding, Ph.D., Columbia River Coordinator  
Standards and Assessment Section  
Oregon Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division  
811 SW Sixth Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97204-1390

Dear Mr. Harding:

Reference our letter, dated September 4, 2002, which requested water quality certification and transmitted a copy of our 404(b)(1) analysis for the Columbia River Channel Improvement Project.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, is proposing to deepen the Columbia River Federal Navigation Channel from its current authorized 40-foot depth with advanced maintenance to 45-feet, to an authorized depth of 43-feet with advanced maintenance to 48-feet based on the recommendations in the *Final Integrated Feasibility Report for Channel Improvements and Environmental Impact Statement* dated August 1999 and the *Draft Supplemental Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement* dated July 2002. The Final SEIS is expected to be released to the public no later than January 30, 2003. The proposed action involves both dredging and disposal within the State of Oregon.

This transmittal provides a copy of our revised 404(b)(1) analysis. We request that you replace our original 404(b)(1) analysis with the revised 404(b)(1) included as enclosure 1. We request that you issue water quality certification between February 20 and March 7, 2003, depending on the release of our Final SEIS. In accordance with your recent request, we are also including a copy of our complete submittal to the Washington Department of Ecology, pertaining to water quality certification and coastal zone consistency determination.

Please contact Mr. Bob Willis, Chief, Environmental Resource Branch at (503) 808-4760 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

//signed//

Richard W. Hobernicht  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer

Enclosures

1. Revised 404(b)(1) Analysis
2. WDOE submittal